

THE
IMPERIAL EPISTLE
FROM
KIEN LONG,
EMPEROR OF CHINA,
TO
GEORGE THE THIRD,
KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, &c. &c. &c.

IN THE YEAR 1794

Transmitted from the Emperor, and presented to his Britannick Majesty by his Excellency the Right Honourable George Earl Macartney of the Kingdom of Ireland, K. B. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of China in the Years 1792, 1793, and 1794.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE FROM THE ORIGINAL
CHINESE POETRY.

WITH
NOTES BY VARIOUS PERSONS OF EMINENCE AND DISTINCTION,
AND BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IGNOTUM RUTULIS CARMEN CŒLOQUE LATINO
FINGIMUS, ET FINEM EGRESSI LEGEMQUE PRIORUM.
JUV. SAT. VI.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:
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1798.

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

A PREFACE.

AS no writer ever stood in greater need of an apology than myself, I hope I shall be permitted to give a few words in explanation of my labour. I have undertaken to translate into English verse the poetry of the Emperor of China, who is stiled "The torch of the East, the true descendant of "Taytsoy, and the providence of Heaven." I have studied almost every principal writer on the subject, but must except the general History of China, translated by Father Moyrac de Mailla in *Twelve volumes 4to*, which I just saw, but could not obtain; and I regret it daily with all the fulness of that *desiderium* which so dear a head as Father Moyrac de Mailla's demands. I confess also that I have received assistance from the best scholars and interpreters employed in Lord Macartney's Embassy, (though I was unfortunately deprived of the aid I hoped, from the ingenious *Mr. Plumb*, stiled by way of eminence *the Interpreter*, whom I regret still more than Father Moyrac de Mailla); yet I am convinced that it is impossible to do full justice to the imperial Chinese phrases and expressions, which are not always intelligible to an European. I have therefore been under the necessity of supplying many passages from conjecture, or by the analogy of meaning; and this must be considered by any person who may have an opportunity of comparing my English with the Emperor's

Chinese. Yet if the reader should be of opinion that I have sometimes totally misunderstood, and sometimes falsely conjectured, the meaning of the Emperor, he will be inclined to forgive me, when he considers for a moment the nature of the Chinese language.

Father Du Halde will inform him, that there was a " Dictionary composed by order of the late Emperor, and that it did not contain all the language, since it was found necessary to add A SUPPLEMENT IN TWENTY-FOUR VOLUMES, though the first work contained NINETY-FIVE VOLUMES, the greatest part very thick and in a small character*." I must observe, that I was favoured only with the first *ninety-five* volumes, some of which were a little imperfect; and Sir George Staunton himself could not procure for me the *supplemental twenty-four*, though he endeavoured to oblige me with the greatest politeness. This must be my first excuse. As to *the words* themselves Father Du Halde shall give an example or two, which will be sufficient to give an idea of the rest. He says, " The word TCHU when *pronounced slowly*, signifies a lord or master; if with an *even tone*, it signifies a hog; if pronounced *quick*, it means a kitchen; if in a strong and masculine tone, it signifies a column." Again; " The syllable Po, according to it's various accents and modes of pronunciation has ELEVEN different meanings; it signifies 1, Glass. 2, to boil. 3, to winnow rice. 4, wise or liberal. 5, to prepare. 6, an old woman. 7, to break or cleave. 8, inclined. 9, a very little. 10, to water. 11, a slave or captive*." Under circumstances like these I really think it impossible, and rather unkind, not to make some allowance for my errors, as I certainly have not the opportunity of hearing the pronunciation, and of conversing so frequently in Chinese, as I could wish; and, I think, if even

* Du Halde History of China, v. 2. p. 393. Eng. edit. 8vo.

* Du Halde Hist. of China, v. 2. p. 390. Eng. edit. 8vo. and Abbé Grosier's Account of China, v. 2. p. 382. Grosier's work is an agreeable compilation from various authors.

an ambassador should be found to have made a mistake or two, we may be sorry, but we cannot be much surprised.

My original is an Ode; but for various reasons I have been obliged to soften it down to the milder and more familiar form of an Epistle. Besides, a political composition requires a discussion of subjects not always lyrical in this country; and the internal æconomy of a kingdom will not easily submit to an English stanza, however varied: but this is different in the court of Pekin.

Yet in order to give the reader some idea of the difficulty of translating poetically such sublime writings as the Emperor's, I beg leave to exhibit some part of the same imperial Author's "ODE IN PRAISE OF DRINKING TEA." But as it is impossible for an uninstructed European to conceive the form and solemnity, which accompanied the publication of that great national poem, he must for a few moments suspend his curiosity for the work itself, while I convince him of how much greater consequence the poetry of an Emperor seems to be, than his politics. I am informed by Sir William Chambers K. P. S. &c. &c. &c. in his note upon the *Discourse of CHET-QUA* of Quang-Chew-Fu Gentleman, annexed to his famous Dissertation on Oriental Gardening in 4to. page 118, second Edition, that "THE ODE IN PRAISE OF DRINKING TEA was published by the imperial edict of KIEN LONG, reigning Emperor of China, bearing date the twelfth day of the ninth moon of the thirteenth year of his reign, in THIRTY-TWO different types and characters, under the inspection of Yun-lou and Houg-yen, Princes by the title of Tsin-Suang; Fou Keng, Grandee by the title of Taypao; Count, by the title of Valiant; and First President of almost all the great tribunals of the empire; whose Deputies were Ak-down and Tsing-pou, Grandees by the title of Taytzee Chaopao; and these were again assisted by Isau, Fouki, Elquinque, Tetchi, Mingtee, Tsoungming, Tchaugyu, Tounmin, and about a dozen other Mandarins of rank and reputation; so that there is no doubt but the work is perfectly correct."—This I believe is perfectly

new in the annals of poetry to most of my readers. Now in our Europe, we find the reverse in the present time, even in political subjects. Emperors, Kings, Vice-roys, Governors, Dukes, Admirals and Generals publish their Manifestos and Counter Manifestos with advice or without advice, just as they please, and generally in a noble manner, without any consideration at all, like the Duke of Brunswick, Lord Hood, or Earl Fitzwilliam. To be sure in these manifestos mere trifles are at stake; such as the lives and properties, the happiness or the misery of millions. But in China (hear this, ye Right Honourable Statesmen, William Pitt and Henry Dundas!) when an Emperor's ODE IN PRAISE OF DRINKING TEA, is to be published, Princes, Grandees, Counts, First Presidents of all the great tribunals, and Mandarins of high rank and reputation, are summoned to sanction and superintend the publication of the important national work.

I shall make no excuse for these preliminary articles, but proceed to present the reader with some sublime passages from the Ode itself, dignified and ushered in with the solemnity which I have described, and as it stands in page 119 of Sir William Chambers's Discourse, just mentioned. The original commences with these words, "*Meihòa che pou yao*, "&c." the first verse will be quite sufficient to shew the harmonic power of the original; the translation is as follows. "The colours of the Meihòa are never brilliant, yet is the flower always pleasing; in fragrance or neatness the Fo-cheou has no equal; the fruit of the pine is aromatic, it's odour is inviting. In gratifying at once the smell, the sight, and the taste, nothing exceeds these three things; and if at the same time you put upon a gentle fire an old pot with three legs, grown black and battered with length of service; and if, when the fire is heated to a degree that will boil a fish or redden a lobster, you pour directly into a cup made of the earth Yuë, upon the tender leaves of superfine tea; and if you then gently sip this delicious beverage, it is labouring effectually to remove the five causes of discontent which usually disturb our quiet."—I cannot help ob-

serving, that all other Emperors and authors would be happy to have all their causes of discontent *limited to five*, and removed effectually by a little tea. The imperial poet proceeds, and cries out in rapture, "Methinks I see *the virtuous LIN-FOU* bending into form with his own hands the branches of the *Meikoa-chou*! It was *thus*, say I to myself, that he relieved his mind *after the fatigues of profound meditation on the most interesting subjects*." But the Emperor's rapture is very short indeed, and he breaks forth, or rather says, "I skip from Linfou to Tchao-cheou, or to Yu-chouan, and see the first, (that is, Tchao-cheou), *in the middle of a vast many tea-cups*, of which he *sometimes tastes one and sometimes another*, thus varying incessantly his potation; while the second, (that is, Yu-chouan,) *drinks with the profoundest indifference the best tea**, and scarce distinguishes it from *the vilest stuff*." The Emperor then resumes his lyre, which it may be necessary to observe, he never does but at night, and generally by moon light. "Already, he cries, *the rays of the moon break through the windows of my tent*, and with their lustre *brighten the few moveables with which it is adorned*." The Emperor's modesty is conspicuous at the close of this great ode, and like Pindar, he strikes us with what Lord Bacon calls a *virgula divina*, I mean, an useful moral sentence very unexpectedly. "I find myself (cries the imperial bard) neither uneasy nor fatigued: *my stomach is empty* (the Emperor is poetical to the last) *and I may without fear go to rest*. It is thus *with my poor abilities*, I have made THESE VERSES in the little spring of the tenth moon in the year Ping-yu of my reign.

"KIEN LONG."

* The East India Directors, with that great prudence which distinguishes all their well-debated resolutions, have given positive orders to all their Supercargoes, to have no dealings with *Yu-chouan* (if alive) or any of his descendants. What would become of the Commutation Act, (not forgetting the new Act in 1795) if this Mandarin's *profound indifference for the best tea* should gain ground in this country.

From these extracts the reader will form some conjecture concerning the nature of my labour, and of the necessity of this preface.

As my translation of the Imperial Epistle has been much handed about in manuscript, I have been favoured with a variety of notes by persons of eminence and distinction. I value too much the honour of their communications, not to gratify the public with a selection at least of their remarks on the work of an Emperor, now in his eighty-fourth year, and who is esteemed the most learned and accomplished man in his dominions. I must add, that the following Epistle is written in an happy assemblage of the *Kou-ouen*, or classical language; of the *Ouen-chang*, or that which is used when a noble or elevated style is required; and of the *Kou-enha**, or language of the court, the people in office, and the literati; which consideration will easily account for every allusion, metaphor, or style which the Emperor has thought proper to adopt.

This translation of it is now presented to the public, in the spirit of strong affection and loyalty to the person of GEORGE THE THIRD, and of reverence for the constitution and government of England. In the course of it will be found the freedom of just and liberal animadversion on public characters, and on statesmen in power and out of power, neither suggested by envy, nor dictated by flattery. The Translator of THE IMPERIAL EPISTLE is also of opinion, that the whole of it is composed with that simplicity and unity, of meaning and of intention, which only bold or bad men can misrepresent or misunderstand.

* Grosier's Account of China, v. 2. p. 387.

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K I E N L O N G,
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IN 1794.

Translated into English Verse from the original Chinese Poetry.

FRIEND of the Muse, (*a*) by every muse rever'd,
In Europe honour'd and by India fear'd,

(*a*) The institution of the Royal Academy for painting and sculpture, the patronage of poetical and learned merit in Cowper, Beattie, the late Dr. Johnson and other writers of eminence whom it is unnecessary to mention, and the restoration of national taste for the sublime of music, by his persevering and undeviating regard for Handel, are fully sufficient to entitle his present majesty George III. "The Friend of the Muse." The Emperor notices this in a future part of his Epistle.

Note by the Translator.

Around whose throne, in freedom's chosen land,
 In stern defence a guardian people stand,
 Who feel for Britain, feel their sacred cause, 5
 THY just prerogative and equal laws:
 HEAR, BRUNSWICK, thy Imperial Brother's song,
 Firm on the base of friendship deep and strong,
 E'en in my eightieth winter fancy-free,
 I build the rhyme to Royalty and THEE. 10
 Herenightly by the moon, (*b*) her quick'ning beams
 I court reclin'd, and call Sidonian dreams,
 While minstrels breathe around diviner airs,
 A poet's rapture sooths a monarch's cares:
 All pomp of words my sober years decline, 15
 Simplicity and truth illume my line,
 Soft as the tints Meihòà's (*c*) foliage spreads,
 And fragrant as the perfume Fo-sai sheds.

(*b*) It is to be remembered, that the Emperor always composes at night, and generally by moon-light; see his ode in praise of drinking tea mentioned in the Translator's preface: this frequently gives the happy effect of the *chiar'-oscurò* to the imperial poetry, and particularly in his *portrait-painting*, but occasions the necessity of notes, which never should be admitted without such a necessity. The Emperor, who is always classical in his allusions, speaks of his *Sidonian dreams* in the next verse, and reminds me of Milton, P. L. b. 1.

“ Nightly by the moon

“ *Sidonian* virgins paid their vows and songs:

*Note communicated by Benjamin West, Esq. President
of the Royal Academy.*

(*c*) The *Meihòà* and the *Fo-sai* are the names of two beautiful and aromatic plants in China,

Thanks to the Power, whose well-fraught vessels bore
 Thy lov'd MACARTNEY to my friendly shore, 20
 Whose various talents strength and grace impart
 To blameless life and singleness of heart.
 He came: but with no prodigies on high;
 As once, beneath the frore Siberian sky,
 When sent in Britain's happier hour to prove 25
 Imperial CATHERINE's policy and love,
 Cœlestial Venus mark'd th' auspicious way
 In dusky passage o'er the orb of day. (*d*)

When such thy ministers that round me tend,
 A willing ear to Albion's wish I lend.
 Long has her trident aw'd the subject main,
 Nor e'er unfurl'd her swelling sails in vain;
 Ne'er did her voice in idle thunder speak,
 But crush'd the haughty, and upheld the weak.

(*d*) The Emperor's information is true. Lord Macartney, before he was raised to the peerage of Ireland (and no man is more deserving of that or of any other honour than himself) was appointed ambassador to the court of Russia in 1767, at the very time when the Empress was making great preparations to observe the Transit of Venus over the Sun, from the frozen regions towards the pole, and on the borders of the Caspian, within her own vast empire. (see the Ann. Reg. for 1767, p. 9.) At present this imperial votary of Mars and Venus seems to be employing her political astronomy in making transits rather more permanent and more formidable. The Empress is supposed to have the best and strongest sighted telescope of any potentate in Europe. Her observatory is valuable on many accounts, but in my opinion THE BUSTS of the great orators ancient and modern are its principal ornament.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox.

By THEE inspir'd, her fame unspotted stood, 35

No taint of avarice and no guilt of blood ;

Beneficent and mild from pole to pole

Commerce was taught through mercies tides to roll,

To pour each cultivated blessing wide,

To give new motives to a nation's pride, 40

And blend with artful, but harmonious strife,

The law of int'rest with the light of life.

Such course THOU bad'st th' immortal Sailor run,

Who made discovery where he saw no sun ;

Contending nations own'd their common trust, 45

And France, (for then her Louis liv'd) was just.

Now other climes and other groves among

While loud lament is heard, or plaintive song,

To Him let China's monarch fondly turn,

And twine the wreath round Cook's barbaric urn. 50

While such thy views, while such thy righteous aim,

Her proud pre-eminence shall Albion claim,

And meaner jealousies and tricks of state

Yield to whate'er is good, whate'er is great.

But oh, what phrase of love may best befit, 55

How most may China's sovereign grace thy PITT?

Arch-chemick minister ! his prime decree

Refresh'd thy land with Commutation-Tea; (e)

(e) They who are curious (as all people should be) about the history of *Tea*, are referred to Kämpfer's *Hist. of Japan*, fol.

Wholesome and pure the beverage cheers the sight,
By strange filtration thro' earth, air, and light. (f) 60
Great Minister! whose fame may well engage
The prose of Lauderdale and all his rage;
And yet untouch'd by HIM, with Roman claim
Who left the shadow of a mighty name. (g)

See how *the sick'ning stars*, in Portland's train, 65
Fade one by one from Opposition's plain,
As forth his chosen charms the Enchanter flings,
Ribbands and vice-roys, earls, and garter'd strings.

Oh, that my longing eye PITT's form might greet,
Triumphant borne through Pekin's crowded street, 70

vol. 2. append. p. 1 to p. 20.—to Osbeck's Voyage to China in 1751, vol. 1. p. 246 to 253.—Le Compte's Journey to China in 1685, p. 227 to 230.—Du Halde Hist. vol. 4. p. 21 to 28. ed. 8vo. Engl.—Dr. Lettsom's Hist. of Tea, 4to. in 1772.—and Grosier's Account, vol. 1. p. 463 to 484.

Note communicated by Mr. Twining and a Committee of Teamen, highly Sou-chonged.

(f) *We* admire the minister's system of promoting political vegetation by natural analogy; for as no vegetation whatsoever can be carried on without ground, air, and *the light* of heaven, he thought with the greatest sagacity that the circulation of this fluid tax would be best kept up by making it pass *through windows*, which are at once the conveyance of air and light.

Note communicated and produced by the joint labour and thought of Sir John Sinclair, president, and of Arthur Young, Esq. secretary to the new Board of Agriculture.

(g) Junius.—There is a person now living, emphatically stiled on the highest authority, THE MAN WITH THE PEN.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W.G. Hamilton, M.P.

In boots of silk (*h*) and sattin's trailing length,
 CHOULAH supreme! (*i*) my kingdom's grace and strength.
 Around his waist I'd bind to solemn view
 The scarf of yellow's proud imperial hue, (*k*)
 Where, broider'd bold, thy Lion's golden might 75
 With China's five-claw'd Dragon (*l*) should unite ;
 Rubies (*m*) should on his cap transparent glow,
 And peacock's plumes adown his vesture flow :

(*h*) "People of condition never go abroad *but in boots*, which are generally of *sattin or other silk*." Grosier, vol. 2. p. 296.

Note by the Marquis of Abercorn.

(*i*) *Choulah*, is the Chinese word for *Prime Minister*.—"The whole number of Mandarins appointed by the Emperor, for the administration of the affairs of all the provinces amounts to 8,965. These are all *Great Mandarins*." Grosier, vol. 1. 571. Mr. Pitt's ambition will never rest in the Premier's office in such a little island as Great Britain, after an offer from the Emperor of becoming, Chief of the Chief.

Note communicated by his Grace the Duke of Bedford; (en attendant.)

(*k*) The imperial family alone wear yellow, and such mandarins to whom the Emperor grants the honour of the *yellow scarf*. See Du Halde, Grosier and Bell.

Note by the Duke of Montrose and the Lords Cardigan and Sidney.

(*l*) The Emperor wore a long tunic of yellow silk, interwoven "with figures of golden dragons with five claws; which device no person is allowed to bear *except the imperial family*." Bell's Travels, 8vo. vol. 2. p. 12.—We see THE EMPEROR considers Mr. Pitt as one of his family.

Note by the Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox.

(*m*) The distinction of mandarins of the highest order is a red transparent jewel on the top of the cap, and peacocks feathers trailing down behind it. Mr. Bell explains this: "Most of the ministers of state (he says) were dressed very plain, having

Loungers with lengthen'd nails (*n*) should march before,
 And to the nine add one black whisker more. 80
 Then should the bust of virtuous Lin-fou (*o*) shine,
 Lin-fou, who lives in my immortal line :
 Next in high portraiture, or bold relief,
 Should gleam THE IMAGE of each British chief,
 Of all who swell the sails, or guide the helm, 85
 Hope of thy land, or glories of thy realm ;
 While trophies of the wise, the just, the brave,
 In orient hues and banner'd pomp should wave.

FIRST o'er *thy* ocean with terrifick frown,
 Victorious grac'd with England's rostral crown, 90

*" nothing like ornaments about them ; a few only had large rubies,
 " sapphires and emeralds. These precious stones are cut into
 " the shape of pears, through which a hole is drilled, to fix them
 " on the top of their bonnets." Bell's Travels, vol. 2. p. 13.*

Note communicated (with great feeling) by Mrs. Hastings and Mr. Jeffreys the jeweller.

(*n*) All the men of fashion in China wear *nine or more whiskers*, and all the gentlemen have long nails, *to shew that they are idle*. Perhaps Lord William Gordon and other Loungers and Rangers may introduce this fashion in London, or when they visit Mr. Pitt at his levees.

Note communicated by the Rev. Mr. Newman, Vicar of Bond-street, assisted by some other learned and laborious Divines, in the diocese of John Stockdale, political Bishop of Piccadilly.

(*o*) Lin-fou (see the Translator's Preface for the character of that great man) is the *virtuous tea-drinker*, mentioned by the Emperor in his ode in praise of drinking tea ; and is introduced here with great propriety in MR. PITT'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO THE COURT OF PEKIN.

Note by Sir Stephen Lushington and Mr. David Scott.

The scourge of vaunting France, unshaken Howe,
With Fabian firmness and unruffled brow.

Then be the form of great Cornwallis seen,
Sedate, experienc'd, valiant, and serene;
Depicted in the tablet stand below 95

The filial hostage and imperial foe :
Beyond Mysore he thunder'd : the dread sound
Appall'd, and circumscrib'd the tyrant's bound. (*h*)
Next, with sad registers of treasur'd lore,
Financial scrolls, and many an Indian crore, 100
Burnish'd in breathing bronze, behold HIM pass,
Fearless, who knows alone no change, Dundas.

HE comes, the motley wonder of the time,
Moulded in nature's and in fancy's prime,
Form'd, like Lucullus, for the wordy war, 105
To shake the stage, the senate, or the bar ;
Whose wit a people's plaudits could secure
For gamesters, rakes, and brothellers impure,
Could tear from youth the dread of public shame,
Drive from their lips e'n virtue's very name, 110
And train an easy nation to allow
A public bankrupt with a graceful bow ; (*q*)

(*h*) Tippoo Saib.

(*q*) *The School for Scandal* is the text, and every tutor and every tradesman know where to look for the commentary.

Note communicated by William Wilberforce, Esq. M. P.

Additional note in 1796.—MONTANUS in the time of Juvenal,

A stage-man Portland never would respect,
 But with Athenian (q) dignity reject;
 No *cabinet* for Sheridan, no trust, 115
 While England in her statesmen dares be just.

a witness to the unbounded luxury and extravagance of Nero, is thus described :

Noverat ille
 Luxuriam imperii veterem, *noctesque Neronis*
Jam medias.

SAT. 4.

I do not remember that Tacitus or Suetonius mention the *Specula cubicularia et tabulata ad apertilia* in the chamber of BRITANNICUS, and indeed as I have not by me the *Glossarium mediæ et INFIMÆ Latinitatis*, I cannot render the terms. Perhaps some architects might conjecture by the help of a *marine builder's dictionary*. I may add, that in a secret history of the imperial court it is somewhere observed, that it was customary, *about the middle of Autumn*, for a chorus of *learned Fishermen*, while they were *spreading their nets on a greenish walk on the coast of Campania*, to sing the following words with much emphasis; "NUPTUS *delicias* *Vidue* aspernatur ADULTER." But I never could explain the reason of the custom.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. W. G. Hamilton, M. P.

(q) The Athenians by an express law prohibited any member of the great council of the Areopagus from having any concern in a theatre, or from writing any play or comedy upon pain of expulsion. Plutarch informs us of this in his treatise on the Glory of the Athenians: Την Κωμωδοποιαν ουτως ασεμνον ηγγαντο και φορτικον, 'ωστε νομος ην μηδενα ποιειν κωμωδιας Αρειοπαγιτην. Plutarch, vol. 2. p. 348. ed. Xyland.

Note communicated by the Rev. Dr. Parr, and not without much reluctance: but there was no resisting the pleasure of a little bit of Greek.

HE too, who kindled at a holier flame
 His wit, his learning, and superior fame ;
 Onward with more than Tully's force he prest,
 With more than all, but Tully's judgment, blest:
 High truth in large discourse with wisdom fraught,
 Not better heard in Tusculum, he taught ;
 In every realm of every science found,
 Plain are his steps in all—but Grecian ground.
 A temple (r) last he rear'd by art divine, 125
 And plac'd his Cæsar in the central shrine ;
 High priest himself, but not with olive crown'd,
 His forehead was with martial fillets bound ;
 Within some feeble pillars here and there,
 And idle ornaments for want of care, 130
 But marble still the column and the dome,
 Wrought from those quarries which he found at home ;
 Immortal, though unfinish'd, is the work :
 Why name the architect ? (s) who knows not Burke ?

(r) Templum de marmore ponam ;
 In medio mihi Cæsar erit, templumque tenebit.

Virg. Georg. l. 3.

The Emperor considers Mr. Burke's three treatises on French affairs, entitled, " Reflections on the Revolution in France ; a " Letter to a member of the National Assembly, and his Appeal " from the New to the Old Whigs," under the allegory of a Temple.

Note by the Translator.

(s) I feel myself obliged to the Emperor for his opinion on my friend Mr. Burke's compositions on the French Revolution, on

Next Wyndham, fearless thund'ring from his car,
 Pitt's new Tyrtæus, breathes the blast of war;
 With parts a splendid station to adorn,
 He braves the taunt of democrattick scorn,
 With eloquence and strength, his country's friend,
 To think and act, and what he thinks, defend. 140

And veering Loughborough, whose unquiet mind
 Found late that joy ambition scarce can find;
 He came, though not in Latium to repose,
 But burn in conflict with a nation's foes,

which *they are now writing a dreadful commentary*. As I am on the subject I must observe, that I never remember to have seen the French Convention described in the words of Milton. He indeed knew what a Long Parliament was; but his overbearing genius seems to have portrayed a French Convention, when he described

A shape,

*If shape it may be call'd, that shape has none :
 Or substance may be call'd that shadow seems,
 For both seems either : black it stands as night,
 Fierce as ten furies, terrible as hell,
 And shakes a dreadful dart ; what seems it's head,
 The likeness of a kingly crown has on ;
 Created thing nought values it, nor shuns.*

P. L. b. 2.

For my own part, I distrust them all : I hate alike French policy, French professions, French impiety, French vaunting, French versatility, French falshood, French cruelty. I am equally disposed to guard against their Republican volcano, whether belching forth the fiery lava of *Terror*, or smouldering with the more dangerous smok of *Moderation*.

*Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. William Wyndham, M. P.
 Secretary at War, &c. &c. &c. in 1795.*

Yet still, though thron'd in Thurlow's rightful place,
His words want weight which never wanted grace.

Lo, the grave Grenville, with a patriot's end
Who dar'd to sink the rival in the friend ; (t)
Content could leave the Commons, and the Chair,
To breathe with Lords a more convenient air. 150
There too, upon Hibernia's sainted green,
Should Buckingham, without his boots, (v) be seen;

(t) It should be mentioned to the honour of Lord Grenville, that he accepted a peerage at the very time when he was the only man on Mr. Pitt's side of the house, who could have contested the palm of eloquence with him, or indeed could have succeeded him as Minister, in case of any of those little *amantium iræ*, which will sometimes happen among the best regulated statesmen.

Note communicated (after profound meditation) by George Rose, Esq. Sec. to the Treasury.

(v) The present Marquis of Buckingham, then Lord Temple, was formerly Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Du Halde has explained the Emperor's pleasant allusion in substance thus: If a *viceroy* in China has executed his office with equity and the love of his subjects, (the word *subjects* is too strong) many particular honours are paid him. One of the most pleasant is this: the citizens, some of whom weep or pretend to do so, meet him at a short distance from the city, and *pull off his old boots* and present him *with new ones*: those first taken off are *preserved in a cage over the gate of the City*. Du Halde Hist. ed. 8vo. v. 2. p. 178, 179. Now though the Emperor observes that the loving citizens of Dublin met upon St. Stephen's, or in the imperial words, *on the sainted green*, and most certainly *pulled off my Lord Marquis's old boots*, it does not appear that they presented him *with a new pair*. Whether they never desired to see him *accoutred among them again*, or whatever was the cause, all that the loving citizens could be prevailed upon to say, was, "*Off with his boots, so much for Buckingham.*"

Note communicated (con amore) by the Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox,

Mark how the citizens suspend in state
His leathern trophies on the Castle gate.
Then He, whom e'en fraternal worth could fail,
The plume-pluckt Chatham with a raven's tail; (x)
And garter'd Richmond, whose unblason'd shield (y)
Proves honour to æconomy should yield;
And Malagrida, (z) with his wily leer,
Sense that misleads, but words that charm the ear.

Fresh from Hermippus and his doctrine brisk,
In saffron sock old Cardigan (a) should frisk,

(x) The Emperor is again local in his allusions. The Chinese mode is this: when a Mandarin is removed from a very important station to one of less consequence in the government, the peacock's feathers depending from his cap are taken out, and crows feathers are substituted.

Note communicated (con amore also) by the Rt. Hon. the Earl Spencer First Lord of the Admiralty.

(y) It is difficult to understand the whole of the Emperor's meaning, but I think my office enables me at least to offer a conjecture. When the late repairs were made in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, with an exemplary liberality, every Knight of the Garter contributed a sum towards it, and his arms were blasoned on the window over his banner. The D. of Richmond alone thought his fame sufficient without the honour and expence of the sacred glass, and declined them. The glass remains unornamented to this hour.

Note communicated by the Rt Rev. the Dean of Windsor:

(z) Marquis of Lansdown. See the Lettres Provinciales.

(a) Cardigan.—“No; che mago non è questo;
Egli è un musico, per Bacco.”

Quotation from a favourite opera, communicated singing (rather of the loudest, as usual,) by the Earl of Galloway, assisted by Mr. Francis, jun. dall' Accademia degli Arcadi e degli Buffi Caricati.

With Ailesb'ry, graceful in his walking-dress,
 And Dorset, prompt the lively dame to bless:
 And there, insatiate yet with folly's sport, 165
 That polish'd sin-worn fragment of the court,
 The shade of Queensb'ry should with Clermont meet,
 Ogling and hobbling down St. James's street.
 But mark the courteous philanthropick form
 Of Leeds, sagacious of each brooding storm; 170
 Of wit well manner'd, skill'd at once to please,
Resign with candour, and dissent with ease;
 Though wary, bold and manly is his part,
 And England's honour ever at his heart.

Then should THY sacred Orators appear; 175
 Horsley in front, while Watson in the rear
 The chemick dews of peace around him flings,
 A pluvial prelate, from his lawny wings.
 And hapless HE, whose sad unworthy tale
 Is heard in Winchester's opprobrious vale; (c) 180

(c) The translator has improperly rendered the Emperor's original Chinese word *Too-paa-jesh*, a *vale*, which my researches in that language enable me to interpret a *sacred eminence*, or *hill* or *temple*. He is certainly wrong, and the Emperor was right.—My duty in the long *absence* of my bishop *on the Continent*, which the Emperor cannot mark in too strong terms *at such a time and for such a Cause*, (though the bishop is a man of private worth and amiable character) requires a few observations from me. It is notorious to this whole kingdom that the ministry, from the best motives of mercy, humanity and toleration, originally fitted up the King's House at Winchester as an *ASYLUM* for the Emigrant

Forc'd by a fierce, luxurious, gambling wife,
From all the hallow'd dignities of life,
His high-paid duties, and his sacred home,
Exil'd in lewd Italian climes to roam;

Priests. It is as notorious, that it is *now* something more than an asylum. It is a sacred college; it is THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE CATHOLICK CAUSE in this country, a *seminary* where NEAR ONE THOUSAND ROMISH PRIESTS are publickly maintained; where ordinations, conversions, instructions, and all the business of their dark divan are held, and which water all their schools old and new. I should think the following words framed for the occasion, if Milton had not written them:

“ Not content

“ With their audacious neighbourhood; they build

“ THEIR TEMPLE, *right against the temple of God,*

“ ON THE OPPROBRIOUS HILL.” P. L. b. i.

See Milton's Account of *Moloch* at large.

It is a publick cause of consideration. We know what the Emperor did with the Jesuit Missionaries in China, when they became troublesome. They should, if possible, be sent out of our country; if that cannot yet be, they should be *instantly dispersed*. History informs us *what Ulysses was*; it is the part of government to guard against what *he may again be*; and to see that *Troy may stand and the citadel of Priam and of Protestantism may remain*. I speak for the publick; and I speak with the expectation of being publickly heard.

Note communicated (ex officio) by the Rev. Newton Ogle, D.D.

Dean of Winchester in 1795.

N. B. This note was written by the Dean of Winchester in 1795. and there are now stronger and more powerful reasons for attending to his publick remonstrance. It is well known that the *whole collection* of these priests *now* consists of *not above one third* (if so much) of the original emigrants; the remainder being *now* supplied with boy-priests, (little superior to *acolythes*) who are not emigrants, pert and insolent to the members of our established

Now (d) while thy Sion in desponding strain 185
 Invokes the Fathers from her inmost fane;
 Why slumbers thy Arch-Pontiff? on that shore
 Who frodimbe omed dulness rouses Moore?
 And, while the pillars of thy temples bow,
 Why circles not the mitre PALEY's brow? 190

Next see the learned Parr, in judgment weak,
 Who first lampoon'd a minister in Greek;
 By merit rais'd above his *buff* compeers
 In shag and title, "Master of the Bears;" (e)

church, without the least gratitude for the unequalled and inconsiderate protection which they receive from the state. Besides this, nunneries and monasteries are openly and avowedly rising in different parts of the kingdom, and these *Romish conies*, burrowing into the heart of it, will shortly be found to be no *feeble folk*. We discover in these members of the *Romish* church the same principles with their ancestors, the same spirit, the same dark intrigues, the same intolerance, the same immortal and unquenchable hatred of Protestant heresy, the same insinuating or domineering manner (as the occasion may require) in the priests and spiritual guides, the same love of *the sacred sulphur* at their hearts, the same assertions of their *original rights and inheritance* in this land—in short, *Viscera magnarum domuum, dominique futuri*, if Mr. Pitt and the ministry will not attend to the Dean's words, which, beyond all controversy, ARE TRUE.

Note added by the Translator in June 1796:

(d) In 1794.

(e) It was some time before *we* could decypher the latter part of this passage about Dr. Parr. The first part evidently relates to the Bellendenian Greek and Latin preface, the translation of which into Chinese cost the Duke of Portland above five hundred pounds. But *we* now find the latter part also to be truly imperial. In the Greek Anecdota of Procopius, b. 9. (*we* read it in English) or the

He marks the den, whence 'mid the bestial herds 195

THE UNFROCK'D GRAMMARIAN (*f*) hurls his red-
wing'd words ;

And mourns, transfix'd by the prelatick spear,
Expiring Priestley on his western bier.

Then Bedford, late by publick views inspir'd,
Cool at Newmarket, nor at hazard fir'd ; 200
Oeconomy the order of his day,
In lease, in love, in building, or in play :

Secret History of the Court of Constantinople in the reign of Justinian, *we find that there were two factions in the state, the Green and the Blue. The dissolute youth of Constantinople adopted the blue livery of disorder, and the bonds of society were frequently relaxed and sometimes broken. At that time wild beasts of different species were maintained by the blue (some MSS. have it, and buff) faction IN THE CENTER OF THE METROPOLIS, and one of the most honourable appointments was that of "The Master of the Bears."*—How learned is the Emperor in his allusions ! with what propriety does he conduct his applications !

Note by the joint labour and ability of Dr. Coombe, Editor of a splendid, and rather silly, edition of Horace, and of Mr. Alderman Curtis, Brother to the Rev. Mr. Curtis : Arcades Ambo.

N. B. The Chinese Translation of Dr. Parr's Bellendenian Preface had nearly produced a revolution in Peking, which the Duke of Portland never intended ; till it was *confuted in Chinese* by the Mandarin Chum-Hoar-Ti-Fu.

(*f*) Horæ Tooke.—In August 1771, *The Divine* wrote thus of himself ; " Monument I shall have none ; but over my grave " it will be said, in Junius's own words, HORNE'S SITUATION " DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH HIS INTENTIONS." Junius's Letters. After his acquittal from the charge of high treason in 1794, Mr. Horne Tooke *felt* that he had lived to be his own Commentator,

Note by the Translator.

Revers'd see now the youthful statesman start,
 Splendor and greatness beating at his heart,
 Full to the goal he pants for dubious fame, 205
 And slights the virtuous honours of his name.

Next feeble Portland, whom Pitt call'd to share
 A forc'd alliance, and distracted care :
 Fitzwilliam too !—but fate conceals the page :
 Hibernian policy and Romish rage, 210
 Hot from the hell of Loyola, *may* rise
 With discord starting to unmeasur'd size,
 Struck with unhallow'd phrenzy to divide
 A sister land from Britain's guardian side :
 Pause, while ye may, yet friendly chiefs ! the care, 215
 The cause, the blood, are ONE : forbear, forbear. (g)

(g) The Emperor in these lines *seems* to make a delicate allusion to one of the most finished passages of consummate art in the *Æneid*:

Illæ autem, paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis
 Coneordes animæ, *dum nunc et nocte premuntur* ;
 Heu quantum inter se bellum, *si lumina vitæ*
Attigerint, quantas acies stragemque movebunt !
 Ne, *Pueri*, ne tanta animis assuescite bella,
 Neu patriæ validas in viscera vertite vires :
 Tuque prior, tu parce, genus qui ducis Olympo :
 Projice tela manu, sanguis meus.

ÆN. 6.

The words are figurative : the *dum nunc et nocte premuntur* are evidently expressions which denote the D. of P. and Earl Fitzwil-

In Anglo-Russick bronze should Fox come forth;
 I'd spare the blushes of degraded worth : (h)
 Oh had he ever to himself been true,
 Nor chang'd the pristine patriot for the new, 220

liam, or any other Dukes or Earls, when *in opposition*, which generally has a tendency to create the *concordes animæ paribus in armis*. This is confirmed by what follows; *si lumina vitæ attigerint*, which can have no other meaning than this; *if ever they should make part of the ministry*: the *lumina vitæ*, the *auræ simplicis ignis*, the pabulum or nutriment of life can be found in no other region. *Pueri* is a term peculiarly adapted to all Ministers. The *tu prior, tu parce*, is not so clear, but I should not refer it to Earl Fitzwilliam: weapons may however be forced from hands which use them inconsiderately. The *bellum*, *acies* and *stragem* are a little prophetick of Ireland; but I trust England will avert it, by that tender address—*Projice tela manu, SANGUIS MEUS!*

Note communicated (in 1795 during the short and imprudent administration of Lord Fitzwilliam in Ireland) by Earl Mansfield ci-devant Lord Stormont, one of the best informed and best-read scholars in Europe in the Translator's opinion.—This note is preserved to explain the Emperor's meaning to posterity. (1796.)

(h) It is impossible to ascertain the peculiar degradation of this great orator and statesman (for such he is and ever will be esteemed) to which the Emperor alludes: whether to that degradation arising from the honour which the Empress of Russia conferred on him, or from the pension which he enjoys from private benevolence, equally disgraceful to the subscribers and to himself.

Note communicated by George Rose, Esq. M.P. Secretary of the Treasury, from a MS. by the Rt. Hon. William Pitt, &c. &c. &c. &c.

Discretion had repress'd Burke's headlong (i) rage,
And England wanted one immortal page.

Mark disappointed Thurlow's scowling mien;
Happy(ii)—had Pepper Arden (k) never been;
Him shall the wool-sack, him the Chancery mourn,
And Thurlow, Thurlow, every bench return.
With candid Scott, (l) impassion'd, but serene,
Lo, where appears Macdonald's (m) polish'd mien;

(i) The Emperor, always just, admires Mr. B. yet can see and censure his defects. But as to his eloquence *taken upon the whole*, to him alone of our English Orators can the following words belong. “ *En ILLE, qui saxa devolvit et pontem indignatur, et ripas sibi facit; multus et torrens judicem vel nitentem contra fert, cogit- que ire qua rapit; hic iram, hic misericordiam inspirat; hic defunctos excitat; apud hunc et Patria ipsa exclamat; hic deos ipsos in congressum prope suum sermonemque deducit.*”

Quintil. L. 12. c. 10.

Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. William Wyndham, M.P. &c. &c.

(ii) Et Fortunatum, si nunquam &c. &c.

Virgil. Ecl. 6.

(k) The famous contest between Mr. Pitt and the ci-devant Chancellor Thurlow for Pepper Arden, always reminded me of the dispute between Agamemnon and Achilles for the beautiful *Briséis*.

Note communicated by Joseph Jekyll, Esq. M.P. and author of many other pretty little Jokes—principally on Mr. Pitt; but Nunquam animam talem dextra hæc &c.

(l) Sir John Scott, Attorney General; from whom proceeded whatever is honourable and of good report in principle and practice, and with great ability, at the late State-trials in 1794 (particularly in Mr. Horne Tooke's) which trial, from the conduct of it, I should rather call a *legal, judicial, and criminal conversazione round the table at the Old Bailey*. When Sir John Scott made his reply to Mr. Tooke's Advocate Mr. Erskine, I could not help observing to my friend who sat next to me;

And angry Kenyon, from state-troubles turn'd, (n)
Just, and in all, but graceful learning, learn'd; 230
And the Bar-pleader, whom mobs call divine,
Known by the symbols of I, ME, and MINE: (o)

"Cum illa dicendi vitiosa jactatio inter plausores suos detonuit,
"resurgit VERÆ VIRTUTIS FORTIOR FAMA." Quint. l. 12. c. 9.

Note by the Hon. Mr. Perceval, junior counsel for the prosecution.

(m) Sir A. Macdonald, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, late Attorney General.

(n) A Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, who gives himself up to his legal profession and turns from politicks, must at all times be a valuable man, and particularly so at present. There are persons who entertain some doubt of the propriety of the opinion anciently delivered of the *Orator* or, as we construe the word, the Barrister or Pleader by profession, yet we believe it strictly true with a few rare exceptions. "Multi erant præ-
"terea præclari in philosophia et nobiles, a quibus omnibus
"una pene repelli voce *Oratorem* A GUBERNACULIS CIVITATUM,
"ac tantum in judicia et conciunculas, tanquam in aliquod
"pistrinum, detrudi et compingi videbam." De Oratore L. 1

*Note communicated by the Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke and the
Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox.—Lords Thurlow and Loughborough dissent.*

(o) The Emperor means ME, by G—: he affects to insinuate that my eloquence is confined to the bar; and never can have the least effect in the senate. Next to myself however, I think Cicero the best Orator: *no man ever spoke so well of himself*. I admire that perpetual ornament of his unblushing phraseology, the *Ut ad me revertar*: though his discovery of *Catiline's* plot and his PLEADINGS AGAINST THAT CONSPIRACY are not much to his honour.

Note communicated by the Hon. T. Erskine.

N.B. Qui ACTORIS captat elegantiam, perdit viri boni et gravis auctoritatem;

Quintil. L. 11. c. 3.

*Additional note communicated by the sober and steady
Counsellors Mansfield and Plumer.*

With the boy-candidates for publick praise,
 The Whitbreads, Cannings, Lambtons, Jenkys, Greys,
 All, from the promise of whose rising ray 235
 England expects a brighter, steadier day.

But last, in regal grandeur once erect,
 Now in wan splendor and with eyes deject,
 HASTINGS, that *great, that injur'd*, dubious name,
The glory of thy India, or *the shame*; 240
 Through truth, through lies, through eloquence,
 through pride,

Borne down in Burke's unnavigable tide.
 How fades the laurel on that haughty brow
 Jove's thunder spar'd ! who made the nations bow,
 While in his grasp, by fame and honour grac'd, 245
 Britain thy delegated sceptre plac'd.

State-victim now, deluded while secure,
 Flesh'd for the altar, and for Pitt mature ;
 Though vers'd in every wile, he learn'd too late
 That love in ministers is secret hate : 250
 For HIM, thus humbled in Impeachment's weeds,
 To tardy justice England bends and pleads. (*h*)

(*h*) While these lines were printing (as I should believe) the Lords publicly pronounced the ACQUITTAL OF MR. HASTINGS in the chamber of Parliament, after *a trial of seven years and three months*, on St. George's day, the 23d of April 1795. I shall make no remarks but in the words of Shakespeare;

“ ON THESE CHARGES

“ CRY, GOD FOR (HASTINGS) ENGLAND AND ST. GEORGE !”
Note communicated (maestoso con brio) by Lord Thurlow.

While thus they pass, my Mandarins should bend,
 And to my throne PITT's palanquin attend ;
 Trumpets of Outong-chu (*q*) his praise unfold, 255
 And steely crescents (*r*) gleam in semblance bold ;
 With repercussive notes from impulse strong
 Air thunders, rolls the drum, and groans the (*s*) Gong ;
 Flambeaux of odorous wood, and lanterns (*t*) bright
 In eastern prodigality of light ; 260
 The cluster'd radiance of the fields above,
 And pictur'd planets (*v*) in their orders move,

(*q*) " Drummers and Trumpeters march before the Emperor (blowing) with their trumpets, which are three feet long, " and made of a wood called *Outong-chu*, and ornamented with " rings of gold." Grosier, v. 2. p. 330.

(*r*) " Behind these march a hundred soldiers armed with " halberts, the points of which terminate in a crescent ; with " macebearers, &c." Gros. v. 2. p. 331.

(*s*) The Gong is an instrument of a circular form made of brass, which the Chinese strike with a large wooden mallet covered with leather ; the sound is heard to a great distance.

(*t*) " Four hundred large lanterns of elegant workmanship " next make their appearance, borne by the same number of " men ; and four hundred flambeaux, made of a kind of wood " which burns long, and diffuses a great light." Gros. as above. —N.B. For the account of the famous *Feast of Lanterns* throughout the empire of China, see Grosier v. 2. p. 323.

(*v*) " After these twenty-four banners upon which are painted " the signs of the Zodiac ; and fifty six other banners, on which " are represented different clusters of stars, according to their " arrangement in the heavens." Gros. v. 2. p. 331.

Note by the Duke of Marlborough.

Seraphick emblems ! and in azure car
 Thy Herschel pointing to his Georgian Star.
 For PITT the portals of the south (x) expand, 265
 And on *my* marble (y) HE alone should stand,
 While from the mountain of the agate seal (z)
 His titled worth my Jasper should reveal;
 Then, as in natal splendor, should be brought
 The chequer'd vest (a) by learned fingers wrought ;

(x) " The southern gate of the palace is never opened *but*
 " *for the Emperor himself.*" Du Halde Hist. v. 2. p. 24. English
 ed. 8vo.

Note by Lord Hawkesbury.

(y) " There is a causeway paved *with white marble*, and none
 " *but the Emperor* may walk in this path. Du Halde v. 2. p. 26.

(z) " The patents and imperial acts are all sealed with the
 " Emperor's own seal, which is *a fine Jasper*, near eight inches
 " square, and is taken from the mountain *Yn yu Chan*, that is,
 " *the mountain of the agate seal.*" Du Halde v. 2. p. 19.

(a) " The *Literati* among the Mandarins pay a peculiar ho-
 " nour to a good Governor of a province. They cause a dress
 " to be made for him of small pieces of sattin, red, blue, green,
 " yellow, &c. *His birth day* is chosen as the proper time for
 " presenting him with it. He at first refuses it; but at last
 " *yields to the intreaties of the literati.* They then make him put
 " on *this chequered garment*, the different colours of which are
 " supposed to represent all the nations that wear different
 " dresses, and to inform the Mandarin that he is *worthy of ruling*
 " *them all.*" Grosier v. 2. p. 340 —N. B. This is a kind of
 imperial anticipation of that chequered Chancellor's robe with
 which the *Literati* of Cambridge will one day invest Mr. Pitt,
 IF he should continue to be the Minister; IF NOT, those *good*
men will not be at a loss where to discover TRANSCENDENT
 MERIT.

Note communicated (con furia) by Lord Thurlow.

While with slow-pacing steps in gorgeous rows
 The solemn pomp my sons of science (*b*) close.
 Their heads aloft my elephants should toss,
 Morton cry, *Morgu*, and Sir Clement, *Boss*; (*c*)
 The full Tartarian chorus sounding far, 275
 Hail, MINISTER OF PEACE—BUT NOT OF WAR!

Ah me! too fondly does my fancy dream:
 PITT hears not; and would slight the imperial theme,
 Though all my wealth Macartney's voices should speak,
 Or learn'd Sir George in chinese or in greek, 280
 Or CHET-QUA's self, admir'd by beau and belle,
 CHET-QUA, (*d*) whom all the world knew passing well;

(*b*) "The grand cavalcade is closed by two thousand Mandarins of Letters." Gros. v. 2. p. 332.

(*c*) *Morton* and *Sir Clement*.—I suppose the Emperor means two officers of high ceremony in his palace, whom out of compliment he names after the EARL of MORTON, Chamberlain to the Queen, and *Sir Clement Cottrell*, Master of the Ceremonies, of whom he cannot but have heard. As to the words they are to pronounce before Mr. Pitt, Mr. Bell informs us of their meaning; "The Master of the Ceremonies (he says) stood by "and delivered his orders in the Tartar language by pronouncing the words *Morgu* and *Boss*, the first meaning *to bow*, and "the second *to stand*; two words which I shall not easily forget." Bell's Travels 8vo. v. 2. p. 9.—These emphatic words *Morgu* and *Boss* should be pronounced by the Speaker and Mr. Dundas whenever Mr. Pitt makes his triumphal (I mean his daily) entry into the House of Commons and at all his levees.

Note communicated by George Rose, Esq. M.P. Secretary to the Treasury. (1794.)

(*d*) *Chet-qua* was a Chinese who visited England many years ago, and was an intimate friend of Sir William Chambers. He

Ne'er shall my eyes behold in Tartar gown
The chosen Minister of England's crown.

I hail thy favour'd Island, that can boast, 285
Foster'd by THEE, those arts which Athens lost :
Apelles in thy Reynolds shall revive,
And in a Bacon great Lysippus live.
Thine too the poet's care ; nor Cowper's strain, (e)
Nor Scotland's Doric Minstrel sounds in vain ; 290
But chief that care shall Johnson's virtue prove,
Led by the day-star beaming from above.
A nation's taste to rouse and to refine,
Handel by THEE was rais'd to strength divine ; (f)

afterwards returned to China. As Sir William's friend seems to have been a pleasant fellow, and as the knight's account of him is very pleasant too, I shall transcribe a part of it. "*All the world*" (says Sir William) *knew* CHET-QUA ; and how he was born at "Quang Chew-Fu ; also how he was bred a face-maker, and "had three wives, *two of whom he caressed very much and the third* "but seldom, for she was a virago and had large feet. He dressed "well ; *wore nine whiskers and four long nails*, with silk boots and "callico breeches ; equalling therein the prime Macaronis and "sçavoir-vivres not only of Quang-chew, but also of Shum-tien-fu. *He played divinely on the bagpipe and made excellent remarks ;* "was fond of smoaking, and was then always *vastly pleasant and* "very communicative." See Sir William Chambers's Discourse annexed to his Dissertation on Oriental Gardening. 2d edit. 1772, page 115.

Note by the Rev. W. Mason.

(e) See the note on the first line of the Imperial Epistle.

(f) The Emperor alludes to the grand musical performances in Westminster Abbey in commemoration of Handel, in 1784, &c. They are recorded very properly on a tablet on the monument of Handel.

Note by Joah Bates, Esq.

The monumental marble breath'd : from high 295
 His wond'ring spirit stoop'd, and own'd the harmony.
 Such the instruction, such the grace, secur'd
 By balanc'd rights, and policy matur'd.

While I, reclin'd on Camusathkin down,
 Careless forget the labours of my crown ; 300
 Or chance some playful Vice-roy's doom deplore,
 Hurl'd by dread Venus (*g*) to the fated shore.
 For gravest Mandarins, in hours of joy,
Here oft with tittering pleasure-misses toy,
 Charter'd unquestion'd libertines of love, 305
 Heirs in expectance of the myrtle grove ;
 With them in lunar halls (*h*) and odorous bow'rs,
 Voluptuous, shun the blaze of sultry hours,
 Skill'd with light spells of wantonness to chase
 The murky *Man-chew* (*i*) from the enchanted space.

(*g*) The *Syphilis* rages in China among persons of the highest distinction, as in Europe. The physician and surgeon to Lord Macartney's Embassy relieved many of the Viceroy's and Mandarin's from their embarrassments at Peking, Canton, and other places.

Note communicated by Sir George Baker, Bart. Physician to the King.

(*h*) *Myau-Ting*, the *Halls of the Moon*, or beautiful vaulted saloons, the concave of which is ornamented with stars and painted to represent a nocturnal sky, where the Chinese Princes retire with their favourite ladies in the heat of the summer days, "as often as they are disposed to see them and be particular," as Sir William Chambers happily expresses it. *Dissertat.* as above p. 32.

Note communicated (affettuoso con brio) by Lord William Gordon.

(*i*) *Man-chew* is the name of the genius of sorrow, among the Chinese.

For them I frame, whom trifles best may please,
 A smile of softness or a sonnet's ease ;
 Not as for THEE, with more than Theban fire,
 Sustain the weight of my imperial lyre.

THEE last I trace with reverence, and survey 315
 The awful wonders of thy various day ;
 Thy nation's darling still ; though Scotland's star
 Shed brief malignant heat, and scorch'd afar,
 Till proudly rising on the vantage ground
 GREAT CHATHAM stood, and shook the realms around :
 Prophet of future fate ! his potent word
 Thy people o'er the vast Atlantick heard ;
 And as the winds his voice ill-omen'd bore,
 Methought the sceptre sunk—to rise no more.

Close we that scene : for other scenes are near ; 325
 Darkness, and discontent, distrust, and fear,
 And brooding policy in novel forms
 Call o'er the deep of empire clouds and storms.
 And wild those storms would rend Britannia's field,
 Should patriot bands the rod of faction wield, 330
 While law, religion, property they seize,
 And senates tremble at their own decrees.
 Sweeping with REFORMATION's iron sway,
 They crush each hand that scruples to obey,
 From splendor's robe each proud distinction wipe, 335
 And place a barren bauble in thy gripe.

Then mitred fathers, and the ermin'd peer,
 And ancestry, and all to honour dear,
 The fond well-earn'd rewards of ancient worth,
 All, spirits disembodied, leave the earth : 340
 These are state-blots which, in their dread intent,
 Will be ras'd out IN THEIR FIRST PARLIAMENT.
 For each empirick, quacks of state or church,
Now hate all truth, but truths of grand research;
 They round their phrase with studied nothings, call
 Sophistick pomp, and meaner minds appall,
 Then unawares the strong conclusion draw,
 The master of the Prince is master of the Law.

Nor *Thou*, in fancied strength too safely wise,
 Their base-born dark original despise. 350
 Whence draws the Sun dire vapour? whence conspire
 The thund'rous tempest, and the lightning's fire?
 From lake, and lazy pool, and weeds obscene,
 (The abode of putrid pestilence unclean,)
 The Elemental fury from afar 355
 Collects and scatters wide ethereal war,
 Ranging without confine, without controll;
 E'en heav'n's own firmament oft seems to roll,
 And from the fated momentaneous shock
 Eternal impress marks the riven rock : 360
 The arch of majesty, the temple's dome,
 The pillar'd hall, the peasant's low-rooft home,

Alike in undistinguish'd ruin fall,
And shapeless desolation equals all.

Through EUROPE's bounds, 'tis her devoted age,
Fires from within and central thunders rage. (*k*)
On Gallia's shores I mark the unhallow'd pow'r,
Her godless regents feel the madd'ning hour,
Dread architects of ruin and of crime,
In revolution's permanence sublime, 370
And cruel nonsense! o'er the astonish'd World
The flag of dire EQUALITY unfurl'd,
Drizzling with blood of millions streams in air,
The scroll, FRATERNAL FREEDOM, DEATH, DESPAIR.
They pass: nor Rhine nor Rubicon they know; 375
Torrents may roar, or tranquil streams may flow,
In unappall'd protrusion on they burst,
All nations cursing, by all nations curst.
Lo, Belgium yields to unresisted fate;
Within her ministers of terror wait: 380
Nature with rod petrifick smites the land,
And binds the floods in adamantine band,
Till Gallia's Chief in right of William sways,
And Freedom, once with life-drops bought, obeys.

(*k*) This picture of THE STATE OF EUROPE was drawn by the Emperor *in the year 1794*, true and just at that period, and is *now* finally consigned by His Majesty to posterity.

Note by the Translator in 1796.

See, where dismember'd trembling Spain resigns 385
Peruvia's radiance, and Potosi's mines.

The pillars of THE ETERNAL CITY bow,
And the tiara from the Pontiff's brow
Drops to the dust : no more in Peter's fane
The Consistorial Brotherhood shall reign. 390

Yet see ; the turban nods by factions torn ;
A length'ning, sad, and sullen sound is borne
Around Sophia's hallow'd conscious walls,
Mutt'ring the doom denounc'd : her crescent falls.
Still view, in western (1) climes Death's palest horse
With pestilence and slaughter marks his course,
While dusky tribes, with more than maniac rage
Rending their brazen bonds, in war engage :
For France still burns to make, with dire intent,
HELL AND THIS WORLD ONE REALM, ONE
CONTINENT ! 400

Yet once attend, great BRUNSWICK ; nor in vain
Hear thy Imperial Brother's closing strain.

THEE from thy people may no thought divide,
The statesman's rashness, or Reformer's pride ;
Reason and her fond visions still distrust ; 405
What, but experience, makes a kingdom just ?
Fix'd on her ancient base let England rest ;
And publick danger arm the publick breast ;

(1) The West Indies,

On British sense depend. On foreign fame
 To proud Versailles THE FATAL STRANGER (*m*) came,
 New laws, new policy, new truth to tell,
 And by new maxims the vast fabrick fell.

Oh, should thy nation slight her just alarms,
 Nor Gallick TRUTHS dread more than Gallick arms,
 Thy diadem must fade ; the Tyrian die 415
 Sink in the scarlet of democracy ;
 All dignities of brighter times will fail ;
 No wisdom o'er the midnight lamp grow pale,
 But knowledge, fancy, genius, all retire,
 And faint and death-struck learning will expire :
 Look round the land, there nothing shall be found
 But swords to guard, and ploughs to till the ground.

Though *now* awhile beneath the afflictive rod
 SUPERNAL POWER may bid THY Albion nod,
 Humbled in due prostration may she bend, 425
 And her far-fam'd beneficence extend :
 Then, all her ancient energies erect,
 Strength from herself and from her God expect,
 And on her rocky ramparts bold, alone
 Maintain HER laws, and vindicate THY throne. 430

(*m*) Neckar.

FINIS.